

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Garfield County B-Roll Filming**

**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0037-EA**

June 12, 2015

Location: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Applicant/Address: Garfield County Office of Tourism
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INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an environmental assessment for a proposal to issuing a filming permit to Garfield County. The project area is in Garfield County.

Garfield County has submitted a 2920 film application to shoot B-Roll video for current and future Travel and Tourism promotional materials. The BLM is proposing to authorize Garfield County to conduct filming within the GSENM. The applicant has submitted a map identifying requested filming sites. Filming would occur at Devils Rock Garden and along Highway 12 at the Escalante River Bridge for two days between June 15-17, 2015. This EA is available at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A no action alternative and one action alternative were analyzed in the EA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA (DOI-BLM-UT-0300-2015-0037-EA) and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I considered the impacts of this action both individually and cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental impacts meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27. The environmental impacts of this project, individually and cumulatively do not exceed those impacts described in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

In making this finding, I considered both the context and intensity of the project as discussed below.

Context:

The 2006 Utah Programmatic EA (USO-06-004) was developed under the old IMP/handbook and clearly identifies a 30 day comment period requirement. That manual stated, "BLM guidance requires a 30-day public comment period for filming with Wilderness Study Areas." The new WSA Manual 6330, also includes a section on Notification to the Public, although it does not identify the 30 day requirement but states that an appropriate comment period is required. This film proposal was posted on the NEPA Register on June 4, 2015 as a Determination of NEPA Analysis. Due to the ambiguity of a 30-day public requirement compared to an appropriate comment period, an Environmental Analysis was prepared. Based on the analysis it expected that authorizing this action will not impact or impair wilderness characteristics nor will it impede the public from a positive recreational experience. BLM recognizes that future growth in travel and tourism is evident; however, the issuance of this film permit is not expected to impact the

existing WSA and Recreation conditions.

Intensity: The following discussion is organized by the significance criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and was used during my consideration of intensity.

1. The activities described in the proposed action do not include any significant beneficial or adverse impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(1)). The EA includes a description of the expected environmental consequences of developing a new parking area and reclamation of the old parking area; these impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. The construction activities incorporate design features to reduce environmental impacts by minimizing the amount of disturbed area and reseeding the disturbed area with a native seed mix. None of the environmental consequences discussed in detail in the EA are considered significant; as disclosed in the EA, most of the environmental consequences are localized and short term. The long-term effects would result in stabilizing soils, restoring vegetation, and reducing impacts to cultural resources.
2. The activities included in the proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
3. The proposed activities will not significantly affect any unique characteristics (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
4. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve impacts on the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)). The impact of minimum impact filming is well understood from similar past actions.
5. The activities described in the proposed action do not involve impacts that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)). The activities described in the proposal are not unique or unusual (see Chapter 2 of the EA). The BLM has experience implementing similar projects and the analysis indicates that impacts are not highly uncertain, unique, or unknown (see Chapter 4 of the EA).
6. Any decision to implement these activities does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
7. The impacts of minimum impact filming over three days will not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the impacts of other actions (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)). The EA discloses that there are no other connected or cumulative actions that will cause significant cumulative impacts.
8. The proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act (40 CFR

1508.27(b)(9)).

9. The proposed activities will not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)). Chapter 1 of the EA describes the statutes, regulations, and state and local plans relevant to this project.


Cynthia Staszak
Monument Manager

6-12-15
Date